

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 21, 2008. Claims 10, 21 and 23 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, 16, 20 and 22 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 21 and 23 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 21 and 23 are allowable, and Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Without conceding the correctness of the art based rejections as set forth below, and solely to obtain the earliest possible allowance of the allowable claims, Claim 10 has been rewritten into independent form. Thus, independent Claim 10 is believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 3, 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,241,659 (Parulski) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,045,967 (Igarashi), Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Parulski in view of Igarashi and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035875 (Suzuki), Claims 7 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Parulski in view of Igarashi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,885,408 (Hirano), and Claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Parulski in view of Suzuki. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, they are nonetheless believed to be obviated by the amendments to allowable dependent Claim 10 and the cancellation of Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, 16, 20 and 22. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

As a formal matter, Applicants respectfully request for the Examiner to review and to approve the drawings in this case, as filed originally on July 20, 2004.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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